

# Rural Development Symposium Set For Oct. 22-24

UNIVERSITY PARK — "Rural People and Places: A Symposium on Typologies" will be held Oct. 22-24 in Grantville.

Sponsored by the Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development, based at The Pennsylvania State University, the

symposium will bring together experts in rural development research, extension and policy formation.

Growth in rural communities during the past two decades has brought new challenges for local citizens, politicians, researchers

and extension personnel. Decision-makers need targeted and refined approaches to problem solving to satisfy the diverse needs of rural areas.

The keynote address by Robert Bealer, professor of rural sociology at Penn State, is entitled "Metatheory: Unlocking the

Mysterious Doors to Typologies." Kenneth Deavers of the Agricultural Research and Economics Development Division of the Economic Research Service, USDA, will speak on "Public Policies in Rural Development: An ERS Perspective."

Other presentations will examine current typologies used in the study of migration, industrialization, health status and local government finance.

For more information on the symposium, contact Al Luloff, NERCERD, 104 Weaver Building, University Park, PA 16802, (814) 863-4656.

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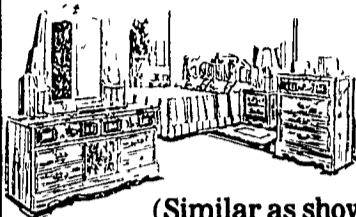
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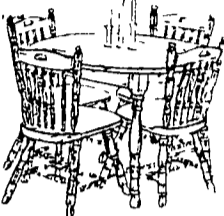
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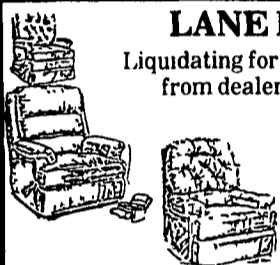
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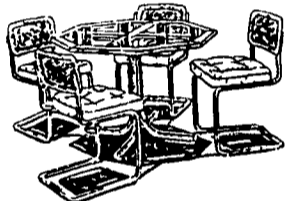
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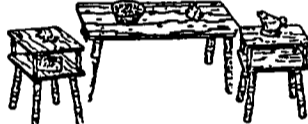
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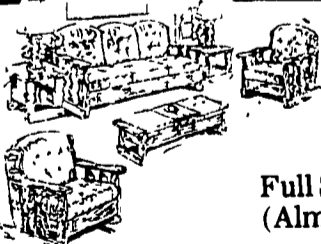
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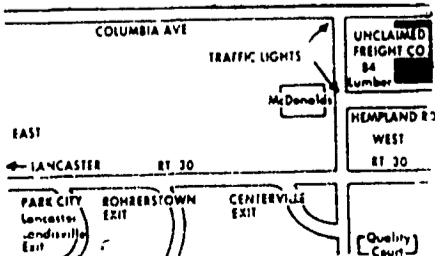
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## On being a farm wife - And other hazards

Joyce Bupp



"Mom, we need some guinea pigs."

No. We do not.

"Mom, wouldn't it be nice to have guinea pigs again?"

No. It would not.

"Mom, don't you miss the guinea pigs?"

No.....well, maybe just a little.

I do miss Ali. Ali—short for Alabama, which she was named before we inherited her—was not just a guinea pig. She was part of the family.

Ali shunned pens whenever possible to run at large around the side yard between the house and the dairy barn. While she grazed the grass of the lawn, her favorite spots were in the tangled jungle mass of the perennial border. In late summer, when the volunteer cherry tomatoes draped over the chrysanthemums, she and the offspring that eventually joined her and her mate could pick and choose the juiciest selections to nibble as they liked.

We lost Ali last summer to the rare occurrence of a visiting, marauding dog while we were away one night. She had little fear of normal enemies, since our own cats and dogs grew up with the rodent pets, and somehow knew they could never bother them. Fritz, in fact, almost seemed to keep watch over these relatives of the groundhogs he so loves to terrorize.

But, through the winter, whenever there was a handful of leftover salad, lettuce, celery tops or carrot ends, I felt a pang of pain over our losing this gentle, affectionate, curly-mop-furred

personality.

"Mom, I have two guinea pigs on order."

NO! Two more little mouths to feed a couple of times a day is exactly what I do not need. No more guinea pigs. And that is that. I don't want to hear anymore about it.

"Oh, Mom, aren't they cute?"

The "He" arrived as a tiny handful of brown-tipped black hair, which protrudes in all directions, while the "She" sports a white mop of fur with bright rust-colored splotches — Guernsey-cow-colored. Thus, the kid opts to name the pair after friends who breed Guernsey cows. No one else but us, I suspect, owns an unmatched pair of rodents christened Marge and Leo.

No longer tiny handfuls of fluff, they've doubled, and doubled again, in size. (In fact, we think Marge is expecting.) Leftover salad and excess garden tomatoes quickly find a home. And every day, after calf chores, guess who relocates the G-pig pen, with its wire run, to a new "pasture" in the yard? And fetches a handful of calf food, which they love? And refills water containers? And grumbles mightily when the kid mentions "his" guinea pigs.

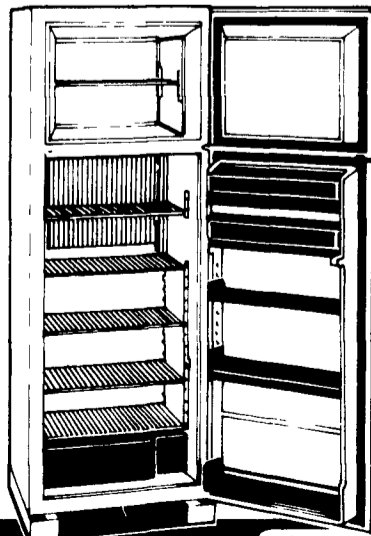
Which all goes to prove: bring up a child in the way he should walk....and he'll instinctively know just how far he can go in getting away with doing what he pleases anyway

But if the kid ever hauls home one of these supposedly tame, but exotic, snakes for a pet, I'd consider adopting out. Me. Not him.

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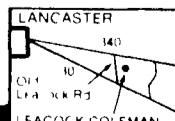
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